

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Ilex myrtifolia - myrtle holly Holly Family (Aquifoliaceae)

Rarity Rank: S2/G5?

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure



Range: AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX

Recognition:

- Evergreen shrub or small tree (not exceeding 5 to 6 m tall), often multi-stemmed from the base
- Leaves narrow, up to 8 mm wide and ranging from 5 to 35 mm in length, stiff and spine-tipped
- Branchlets stiff, borne at angles of 90 degrees or nearly so to the branches from which they arise
- Bark is rough-textured with corky thickenings (especially near the base), pale grey to almost white in color
- Flowers white, small, unisexual, with 4 petals
- Fruit is a bright red (sometimes orange or yellow), round drupe, 5 to 8 mm in diameter, close to the stem, with 4 nutlets

Flowering Time: April to May; **Fruiting:** October to December (to February)

Light Requirement: Part shade to shade

Wetland Indicator Status:

FACW – usually in wetlands

Habitat:

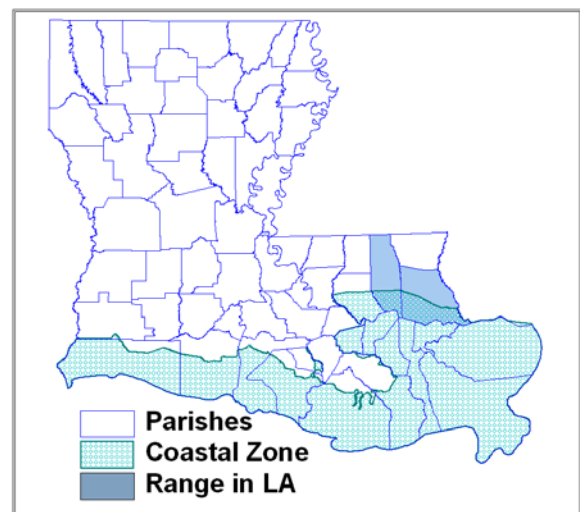
Bayhead swamps imbedded in the longleaf pine flatwoods.

Threats:

Changes in hydrology (drainage/channelizing of streams in bayhead swamps)

Beneficial Management Practices:

Protection of bayhead swamps and landscape level areas in the longleaf pine flatwoods



LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain

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References:

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- Dressler, R.L., D.W. Hall, K.D. Perkins, & N.H. Williams. 1987. Identification manual for wetland species of Florida. Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Florida, Gainesville. 297 pp.
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